

A1 ~~by a corner of said retaining member, wherein said corner is located within said flexible member in an area adjoining said flexible tip.~~

A2 Sub B1 3. ~~(Amended) The seal mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said stress reduction mechanism is constructed such that an inside corner of said retaining member has a curved surface with a radius of curvature equal to or larger than 0.1 mm.~~

A3 Sub B1 10. ~~(Amended) A fuel pump comprising a reciprocating plunger, and a cylinder which is slip-fitted with the plunger and in which a variable-volume pressurizing chamber is formed with the reciprocating motion of said plunger, wherein said fuel pump is provided with the seal mechanism according to any of claims 1 to 9 between the plunger and cylinder.~~

Please add the following claims:

Sub B1 11. (New) The seal mechanism according to claim 1, wherein said corner located within said flexible member has a radius of curvature.

94 12. (New) A reciprocating plunger and seal mechanism arrangement, comprising a reciprocating plunger and a seal mechanism operatively associated with the plunger, said seal mechanism comprising an annular retaining member, a flexible member molded in one piece with the retaining member and having a flexible tip to perform a sealing function, and a stress reduction mechanism for